working in Central Water Commission at Burla are not getting winter liveries, when Burla is under Urban Agglomeration of Sambalpur and the climatic condition of Burla is the same as that of Sambalpur;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the construction of office building and staff quarters of Central Flood and Forecasting Division at Burla; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Instructions have already been issued for supplying liveries to the Group C and Group D employees of the Central Flood Forecasting Division and Sub-Division Burla on the same scale as are supplied to similar categories of employees posted at Sambalpur.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

9. [*Transferred to the* 3rd *March* 1986.]

Explosion in Bokaro Steel Plant

10. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some persons were killed and a number of persons injured in an explosion in the Bokaro Steel Plant in January, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is the outcome of the enquiry made by Government into the explosion and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) and (b) An explosion took place in convertor No. 2 of Steel Melting Shop No. 2 of Bokaro Steel Plant on January 15, 1986 at about 5.15 in the evening. Twenty persons were affected mainly by burns and some by gas poisioning. One official had died on the spot due to heavy burns. The 19 injured persons were admitted in the Bokaro Main Hospital, of which two have since died. Out of the remaining 17 persons, 14 have been discharged from the Hospital, out of which 9 employees have already joined duty. Five of the discharged employees are convalescing at home. 3 employees are still in the Hospital undergoing treatment.

All compensation and amounts payable to the successors of the 3 deceased employees and compensation to be paid to the injured persons has already been paid or has been deposited with the commissioner for workmen's compensation. Bokaro Steel Plant have already offered employment to the widows of the two persons. Efforts were made to contact the third as she was not at Bokaro. An application has since been received from her on 19-2-86.

An Enquiry Committee was constituted by the plant management to enquire into the causes of the accident and to suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

A High Power Enquiry Committee has also been constituted by Chairman, SAIL. They will also consider the report of the Enquiry Committee constituted by the plant management which has been received by the High Power Enquiry Committee. The report of the High Power Enquiry committed is awaited by SAIL.

The equipment that was damaged has been repaired and the convertor is likely to go into operation shortly.

Review of norms for Drought Relief

11. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the existing norms, if any, for determining Central aid to the State Governments to meet the expenditure on the drought relief operations;

(b) whether Government are aware that b ecause of the inadequate Central aid, the State Governments have to divert substantial portion of their resources to meet the situation leading to overdrafts; and

(c) whether Government propose to review these norms for Central assistance to enable the affected State Governments to meet the drought relief expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The quantum of Central assistance on drought relief to the States is determined in accordance with the recommendations of the eighth Finance Commission. For this purpose, the Government of India depute a Central team of experts from relevant fields to the affected area. The Teams visit the affected area, held discussions with the officers of the State Government concerned and recommend the quantum of Central assistance after taking into account the amount of margin money avilable with the State Government, non-Plan and plan provisions and other relevant and material factors. The norms, for calculating the assistance for various items under drought relief, based on report of Eighth Finance Commission and Government decision thereon, are given in the Statement (*See* below). The reports of these teams are considered by the High Level Committee on relief, and on their recommendations the amount is sanctioned to the State Government concerned by the Finance Ministry who issue the sanction. No State is in overdraft on account of expenditure on drought relief as on 19-2-1986.

(c) A Committee has been set up to review and recommend revision of the norms for calculation of Central assistance. The committee has submitted its interim report, which is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Sl.No.	Item	Norms	Remarks
1	Gratutious Relief	Rs.2/- per head per adult.	For old and infirm people.
2	Special Nutrition Programmes	Rs. 1/- per adult and Rs. 0.75 per minor.	This assistance is given for children, pregnant women and lactating mother.
3	Assistance for provision of Fodder	Rs. 2/- per day per large animals and Rs.1/-per day per small animals.	Assistance given to small and marginal farmers and Agricultural labourers.
4	Employment Generation	Amount equal to the wages fixed under Minimum Wages Act by the respective State Governments.	75% of the Minimum Wages as wage component and 25% as material component.
5	Agricultural Input Subsidy	At the rate of Rs.165!/-; per ha.	This assistance is admissible to small and marginal farmers only and given to raise alternate crops.

Sl No.	Item	Norms	Remarks
6	Drinking Water Programmes	Assistance is given on the basis of assessment made by the Central Team which includes the expert from Rural WaterUrban Water Deptt.	
7	Other items	The Central assistance for the other items is given on the basis of on the spot assessment made by the Inter-Ministerial Central Team consisting of various experts.	

समाचार एजेंसियों को सरकारी सहायता

12. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :**
श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान सरकार ने किन-किन भारतीय समाचार एजेंसियों को विज्ञापन देकर तथा अन्य प्रकार से कितनी-कितनी सहायता दी है और यह आदेश जारी किये जाने के पश्चात् कि हिन्दुस्तान समाचार तथा समाचार भारती को विज्ञापन नहीं दिये जाएं, कितने रुपये मूल्य के विज्ञापन भारतीय समाचार एजेंसियों को दिये गये ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय भाषाओं तथा राजभाषा के समाचारपत्रों के लिये कार्यरत समाचार एजेंसियों के विकास के लिए कोई नीति बनाई है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) में उल्लिखित हिन्दी की दोनों समाचार एजेंसियों के बेरोजगार हुए कर्मचारियों को नौकरी पर रखने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री वि० एन० गाडगिल) : (क) समाचार एजेंसियों को कोई विज्ञापन नहीं दिए जाते हैं, अतः हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती को विज्ञापन न दिए जाने के आदेश जारी करने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता। तथापि, "समाचार" का 13-4-1978 को अपने मल संघटकों अर्थात् पी० टी० आई०, यू० एन० आई० हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती में विभक्त हो जाने के परिणामस्वरूप, इन समाचार एजेंसियों को अपना कार्य ठोस आधार पर पुनः आरंभ करने में समर्थ बनाने की दृष्टि से इन एजेंसियों की वित्तीय रूप से मदद करने का निर्णय लिया गया था। "समाचार" के विभक्त हो जाने के बाद सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय द्वारा इन समाचार एजेंसियों को सहायक अनुदान, विकासात्मक ऋण, पुनर्वास अनुदान और तदर्थ अनुदान के रूप में दी गई वित्तीय सहायता का ब्यौरा संलग्न विवरण (आगे देखिए) में दिया गया है।

(ख) समाचार एजेंसियां निजी क्षेत्र में हैं और प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता के प्रति अपनी दृढ़ प्रतिबद्धता के अनुसरण में सरकार समाचार एजेंसियों के आंतरिक कार्य संचालन में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करती। इस प्रकार की एजेंसियों को विकसित करना स्वयं समाचारपत्रों का काम है।

(ग) सरकार समाचार एजेंसियों के आंतरिक कार्य संचालन में किसी भी तरह हस्तक्षेप किए बिना हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के कर्मचारियों को सहयोगी संगठनों में खपाने के लिए यथासंभव मदद करने का प्रयास करेगी।